

**STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
FULL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DOVER, DELAWARE**

Thursday, May 14, 2015

The May monthly meeting of the Delaware State Human Relations Commission was held by video-conference the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Conference Room A, Dover, Delaware; and the Carvel Building, 820 N. French Street, 4th Floor Executive Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware.

Attendance:

Commission Members Present: Acting Chairperson Misty Seemans. Commissioners Erika Caesar, Stephen Elkins, Earnest Gulab, Michael J. Harpe, Douglas James, Prameela Kaza, Nancy Maihoff, Lorenzo Murdaugh, and Walter Smith, Jr.. Paige Schmittenger, DAG.

Commission Members not present: Chairperson Calvin Christopher (excused). Commissioners Mashoor Awad (excused), Diaz Bonville (excused), Whittona Burrell (excused), Chok-Fun Chui, Wallace Dixon (unexcused), Bernice Edwards (unexcused), Rose Mary Hendrix (excused) Gail Launay-Tarlecki (excused), Olga Ramirez (excused), Roy Sudler, Jr. (unexcused), Robert Watson, Jr. (excused), and Rosemarie Williams (excused).

Staff from Division of Human Relations Office: Vincent Petroff and Kelly Fox.

Members of the public present: None.

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairperson Seemans at 7:02 p.m., followed by a period of silent meditation.

II Approval of Minutes

The approval for minutes from the April SHRC meeting was tabled until the next full Commission meeting.

III Members of the Public Present

None

IV Chair's Report

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leaders	Due Date
<u>Fair Housing Month Recap</u> – Acting Chairperson Seemans reported this item tabled till next month.			
<u>Commission Bylaws Update</u> – Acting Chairperson Seemans reported this item to be discussed by Legislative Committee Report.			
<u>Freedom of Information Act</u> – Item to remain on agenda to review.			
<u>Panel Hearing Training</u> – Acting Chairperson Seemans reported training is to be forthcoming. There is also to be training concerning Intake vs. Investigations. Further discussion tabled until next meeting.			
<u>Commission Vacancies</u> – Acting Chairperson Seemans reported there are currently vacancies on the Commission. Commissioners whose terms are expiring and who want to remain on the Commission were advised to complete applications for reappointment and submit to the Governors' office.	Submit application for reappointment/letter of resignation submit to the Governors' and copy to the Division office.	Commissioners whose terms are expiring	Undefined
<u>Dover Human Relations Commission</u> – Acting Chairperson Seemans reported that Chair Christopher would like Commissioners in Dover to look into alleged police brutality issue. A discussion between Commissioners concerning what the Commission can do to promote amicable relations. Acting Chairperson Seemans made the suggestion that this may be an issue that would be addressed by the Community Response Committee (CRC). Commissioner Maihoff expressed some concerns over what the CRC can do			

on this issue. A discussion occurred between Commissioners concerning police brutality, body cameras and police receiving cultural training.			
<u>Attorney General's Office of Civil Rights & Public Trust</u> – Acting Chairperson Seemans reported that Chair Christopher invited Director Allison Reardon to attend a SHRC meeting.	Schedule Director Allison Reardon to attend a SHRC meeting	Chair Christopher	Undefined

V Director's Report

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leaders	Due Date
Director's report was sent electronically prior to the meeting this evening by Director Fullman. No discussion held concerning the Director's report.			

VI Committee Reports

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leader	Due Date
<u>Public Awareness Committee (PAW)</u> – No report.			
<u>Legislative Committee</u> – Acting Chairperson Seemans reported that the Legislative Committee this evening to discuss the death penalty issue. She will draft a letter of support for the repeal of the death penalty on Sunday for submission to the House of Representative and the media. Letter will be submitted to Chair Christopher, Director Fullman, the Legislative Committee, Commissioner James and Paige Schmittenger for response by Wednesday. Paige Schmittenger indicated she will need to review the statute to determine if submission of this letter is allowable under the Commissions statute. Commissioners Elkins and Maihoff expressed they felt this action is allowable under the Commission's	<p>Letter of support to repeal of the death penalty.</p> <p>Commissioner James to send his data to Acting Chairperson Seemans.</p> <p>Responses received submitted to Acting Chairperson Seemans</p>	<p>Acting Chairperson Seemans</p> <p>Commissioner James</p> <p>Chair Christopher, Director Fullman, the Legislative Committee, Commissioner James and Paige Schmittenger</p>	<p>May 17, 2015.</p> <p>May 16, 2015</p> <p>May 20, 2015</p>

<p>bylaws. Further review to be done. Commissioners Elkins and Maihoff expressed frustration concerning the perceived delays in the completion of this letter.</p> <p>The Committee will continue to review Commissioner absences.</p> <p>Commissioner Caesar will reach out to the Chairs of each Sub-committee Chair to discuss By-laws updated.</p>	<p>Paige Schmittenger will review the statute to determine if submission of this letter is allowable under the Commission's statute.</p> <p>Discuss By-law updates with Committee Chairs.</p>	<p>Paige Schmittenger</p> <p>Commissioner Caesar</p>	<p>Undefined</p> <p>Undefined</p>
<p><u>Community Response Committee (CRC)</u> – Commissioner Maihoff reported that the presentation took place at Peoples Place today by herself, Vincent Petroff and Natalie Fountain.</p> <p>Commissioner Maihoff reported that she will reach out to the Governor's office for a list of candidates for the Commission.</p>	<p>Obtain list of Commission candidates.</p>	<p>Commissioner Maihoff</p>	<p>Undefined</p>
<p><u>Governor's Council on Equal Employment Opportunity Committee (GCEEEOC)</u> – No report.</p>			

VII Old Business

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leader	Due Date
None.			

VIII New Business

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leader	Due Date
Commissioner Maihoff advised there will be a Gay Pride event in Dover again this year and recommended the Commission have a table at the event. She advised she would be available to staff the	Contact Gay Pride event coordinators and email Director Fullman.	Commissioner Maihoff	Undefined

table.			
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IX Good News

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leader	Due Date
Commissioner Gulab reported that he will not be at the next SHRC meeting because he is traveling to Europe.			

XI Meeting Adjourned

The Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m. by Acting Chairperson Seemans.